

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

SKETCHES

OF

LEGISLATORS

AND

STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

BY JOHN CARDWELL.

AUSTIN, TEXAS:
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1876.

TENTH DISTRICT.

Counties.—Wood, Van Zandt, Kaufman, Raines, Rockwall and Hunt.

SENATOR B. D. MARTIN is a native of Virginia, is fifty-three years old, a married man, and has been living in Texas for sixteen years. He resides in Greenville, Hunt county, and is engaged in merchandising and farm.

ing. His early life was one of hardships and privations, and whatever of success he has achieved has been the result of his own unaided efforts from the days of childhood.

In Virginia, Mr. Martin was twice the recipient of public trusts, and as a magistrate was regarded as eminently just. He was in the military service of the Confederate States from the tenth of March, 1862, to the close of the war, holding the rank of captain. We next hear of him in a public capacity as a delegate to the late Constitutional Convention, from the Tenth Senatorial District, and, though a quiet member of that body, he was held in high esteem by all who knew him, as a man of eminently just and conscientious views. His constituency recognizing his worth, gave him a Democratic nomination, and elected him by 7000 majority as the man whom they chose to confide in as their Senator in the Fifteenth Legislature. He is also the Presidential elector, chosen by the Galveston Convention, for the second congressional district. He has also been mayor of Greenville for two years. In the Senate he is upon a number of committees, and presides over that on Agricultural Affairs.

Mr. Martin was once a Whig, and became a Democrat after the disintegration of the Whig party in 1855. His selection at times, as a public man, has been the result of honesty and fair dealing in all things, and he has always proven worthy of every trust confided to him. He is possessed of most agreeable manners, an open, frank face, and shows in his rotundity of person that he is free from ugly qualms of conscience.